

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Campers on Mission converge on Greenwood

By Tim Nicholas

A total of 254 recreational vehicles packing 567 people spent June 18-21 on the parking lot of the civic center at Greenwood for the 25th annual National Campers on Mission Rally.

The trade-off for camping on a parking lot was that campers could have their rally in the air conditioned civic center — beating the 95-degree summer heat.

Participants swapped mission work stories; ate barbecue and catfish; took classes in such disparate subjects as juggling and developing a golf ministry; and enjoyed the company of people who love to camp and do mission work at the same time.

Members of the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief organization cooked and served an evening meal for the campers — the first outing for the new disaster relief field kitchen.



Walter (rear) and Mary Alice Kinkeade of Wayland, Mo., pose with the Olympic torch he carried during the ongoing Olympic torch run through America. Kinkeade, 71, believes, he was chosen to be a torch bearer in part because of his involvement with Campers on Mission. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

In a campground setting where people are relaxed and friendly, "there's hardly a bobble between talking about the natural and supernatural of life," said speaker John McBride, director of missions for Shelby County, Tenn.

McBride is one of the people who dreamed up Campers on Mission (COM) 25 years earlier.

At the Greenwood civic center, stories abounded of witness and mission participation.

Joel Land, associate director of the Special Ministries Department of the Home Mission Board, said the American Bible Society reported to him that COM members distribute more Scripture than any group with whom the department has contact.

Land reminisced about the first national COM rally in 1972 at Land Between the Lakes, Ky. At this year's rally, he held a seminar on leading in a campground worship walk.

"It's a short hike where you stop by a preselected site along the way and tell a parable like Jesus did that relates to Scriptures and to life," he said.

Charles Mitchell, a retired railroad worker who organized a COM chapter in Indiana in 1980, fell off a ladder a few years back while on a mission trip to build a pastorium in Shelbyville, Ky.

It was more than a year later that Mitchell's headaches got so bad his doctor sent him for X-rays. He had fractured his neck — a "hangman's break."

"Don't move! You're supposed to be paralyzed from the neck down," he quoted his doctor as saying at the time.

His neck healed, and just last month Mitchell was project director for the building of student housing at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, Ky.

A high point of the meeting occurred when 71-year old Walter Kinkeade of Wayland, Mo., took his Olympic torch to the podium.

Kinkeade, one of hundreds of Americans chosen to carry the torch because of their

contributions to society, partly credited his selection on the fact that he's been on more than 50 COM mission trips.

Other contributions to his selection, he said, included giving away "a couple hundred" bluebird houses, and saving a woman in a restaurant from choking on a piece of apple salad.

He applied the Heimlich maneuver on the woman and she "shot that apple out" about 10 yards, Kinkeade said.

The rally was just a stopping place for many. Charles and Betty Peebles of Jacksonville, Fla., were on their way to Cutbank, Mont., with five other couples to spend three months helping revitalize a Baptist church.

They will be leading in revivals and day camps, and gathering surveys, said Peebles, whose nickname is "Jaybird."

Jaybird said he retired in '71, '81, '91, and again in '94, when he joined COM and has been traveling ever since.

A group of four Mississippi couples were heading for Alaska after the rally for a mission project.

Billy and Catherine Whitaker of Quitman got involved in COM after sharing space with a COM group on a September 1995 camping trip in Arkansas.

"We heard they were going to have a worship service, so we joined them," said Whitaker, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Shubuta.

"We love to camp and we're very mission-minded," he said. At the end of the Greenwood rally, Whitaker said he was looking into other volunteer projects.

The national rally required planning and physical effort.

The Mississippians who planned the event went to Greenwood two weeks early to work with the city in setting up electrical and water hook-ups for the RVs.

Families came from 19 states plus Ontario, Canada, where a chapter of COM has been organized.

COM is Baptist-oriented, but any Christ-



Campers on Mission member Harry Stinson of Orlando, Fla., displays his secret witnessing tool — his toy poodle. When people naturally gravitate to the dog, he uses the opportunity to share Christ with them.

ian campers can join. There is no charge for membership, and opportunities for Christian service are constant.

The 1997 National Campers on Mission Rally will take place June 10-13 at Hutchinson, Kan.

For more information on the COM program in Mississippi, contact the Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Nicholas is director, MBCB Office of Communication.

### Risky business

God is calling churches to take risks and respond to change, according to a research consultant who recently completed a large survey and study for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. David Schmidt reported, "If this research says nothing else, it is saying to churches to abandon what you think is safe. Many problems in church growth come from using yesterday's solutions." Among the study's findings:

— Large events are the primary way people enter churches. Events like crusades, concerts, dinner theaters, and team sports are good examples. Such events should include an appeal to make a decision for Christ.

— Growing churches are often young churches, so older churches must find ways to overcome resistance to change.

— Growing churches are often located in communities that are likewise experiencing growth, but rural churches and churches in nearly every other category can experience growth, too.

"Discover your unique calling and mission. Develop your vision. Take some risks," Schmidt concluded.

### Get involved!

One of the nation's premier theologians has grave concerns about America as the country prepares for the final presidential election of this century. "Democracy can be forfeited if the people neglect intelligent participation in public affairs. Not to be personally engaged in this time of cultural indecision and moral confusion is to be unworthy not only of democratic political existence, but of significant human survival as well," said Carl F.H. Henry, whose latest book, *Has Democracy Had Its Day?*, was released in March of this year. Henry contended that modern America has loosened democracy's "life supports" by privatizing God, failing to harmonize racial animosities, allowing greed and sex to win out over moral sense, and building a deliberately confrontational spirit. "Christians are citizens of two worlds, and the high price of neglect of cultural and political participation is that secular humanism or some other costly alternative will dominate the field. To the extent that Christians are able and competent they must actively participate in the political process," he said.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

New Orleans Seminary selects two Mississippians as Distinguished Alumni: Frank W. Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and Claude L. Howe Jr., seminary professor.

#### 20 years ago

The regular Wednesday evening meal at First Church, Grenada, has a different look with small bowls of weak soup, stale bread, and tap water to emphasize the church's commitment to the SBC's ongoing world hunger relief campaign.

#### 50 years ago

Members of First Church, Tylertown, vote to start an education building construction project after a weeklong revival results in overflow crowds each Sunday. Scores of people bring their own chairs and sit on the church porch during services.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WILLIAM H. PERKINS JR.

## Farewell, Mr. Editor

He served the Lord in some of the hottest of the hot spots around the world — literally. He never professed to being Indiana Jones, but his life nonetheless is the stuff of action novels.

He was a Southern Baptist missionary to South Korea in 1968, when the U.S.S. *Pueblo* confrontation between the United States and North Korea almost reignited the unfinished Korean War.

As tensions increased, he was warned by the U.S. Embassy in Seoul to be prepared to leave everything behind and evacuate his family with less than an hour's notice.

He closed out his missionary career in the Philippines, where portions of the country were virtually controlled by anti-government guerrilla groups and the threat of terrorist attacks was almost constant.

Retirement papers in hand from the Foreign Mission Board, this globetrotter could have gone anywhere and worked at anything he pleased. It came as no surprise to friends and family that he yearned

to return to his roots in his beloved Mississippi.

He went to work for the state's Baptists, first serving as a stewardship consultant and then as director of evangelism at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

He accepted one of his most demanding assignments, however, when he agreed to become editor of *The Baptist Record*.

It was there I first met Guy Henderson, when he hired me as his associate editor in 1992. It was there that I bade him farewell upon his second retirement on June 30.

I say with confidence that no one has had so much impact on my life in such a short period of time, as has Guy Henderson.

He daily asked for God's guidance and wisdom in providing Mississippi Baptists with the best possible newsjournal.

He brought to *The Baptist Record* newsroom a grace and humility not often found among editors and journalists (can I get an "Amen" on that last part?).

His honesty and kindness

toward the most hostile caller was legendary among his staff. I can only hope to do as well on my watch.

More than all of those things, he taught me that the most important role of *The Baptist Record* is as a ministry to Mississippi Baptists.

Sure, we have to get the spelling right and make certain everything on the page is lined up — the nuts and bolts of newspaper work — but he ensured that none of us lost sight of our ministry responsibilities.

I am grateful that God allowed my spiritual path to cross with that of Guy Henderson.

To my friend and mentor, I say, "fare thee well, Mr. Editor," but not "goodbye," because I know God is not yet through using you to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus Christ.

To the man who has devoted a lifetime to fulfilling the Great Commission, I say that I am proud to know the nickels and dimes I gave before I was old enough to pronounce "Lottie Moon" were put to use by someone like you.



## Guest Opinion...

## Disney boycott all about redefinition of family

By Mark T. Long

Media reports described the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) resolution calling for a Disney boycott hateful, bigoted, hypocritical, and elitist (*L.A. Times*, June 13). Stating disagreement with, and calling for nonparticipation in something, is hardly any of these. Levi Strauss boycotted the Boy Scouts of America because of a socio-ethical disagreement. That wasn't labeled bigotry.

I am not a boycott type person. However, when other attempts at communication fail, and something becomes diametrically opposed to one's moral core of beliefs, a boycott is acceptable. We all practice personal, unofficial boycotts and share our opinions with others.

Though fuel to the fire, the current issue is not really "R"-rated movies, Gay Days, or health insurance. Disney has provided these for years with no resolution for a boycott by the SBC.

Under the guise of "corporate non-discrimination policy" Disney has begun offering employee health insurance benefits to live-in partners, and their dependent children, of its homosexual employees, but not to its heterosexual employees. "Non-discrimination policy?"

Apparently, for their company, Disney is correcting society's discrimination (because of traditional Christian influence) of not allowing homosexuals to become legally married. Disney is exercising a new trend in socio-corporate philosophy. In action, Disney decided homosexual union constitutes a real "family." Thus, they are still the leading "family" values company.

This is a "redefinition of the family" issue, thus, an issue of social morality. Paul wrote of Christian consciousness in society (Rom. 14; 1 Cor. 8; 10:14-23).

Planned Parenthood is a leading provider of women's health and sexually transmitted diseases information. However, as one of the leading providers of abortions, I don't feel it moral to support them with my money. There are other viable avenues to provide health information.

Disney is undoubtedly the corporate leader in family oriented entertainment. It has also posited itself as a leading pro-homosexual agenda corporation in the country. Thus, I personally don't feel it moral to support it with my money.

It is true that Disney may do

whatever it wishes with its money. No legal action has been proposed to stop it. I also may do whatever I wish with my money. There are other viable avenues for family entertainment: parents and family time. Work makes this difficult, but we all have to make choices.

Though the Scriptures give no explicit example of Jesus participating in a boycott, it also gives us no explicit example of Jesus taking a bath. However, I believe I will continue this activity. Just because something isn't in the Bible doesn't mean it's unchristian.

I also have concerns about some common objections concerning this issue. First, we must understand SBC polity. Messengers elected by local churches made a decision having no binding authority over the churches of the SBC, or the members thereof.

Recognizing the validity of the resolution and not participating in the boycott does not make one a denominational hypocrite. It is simply our polity. If you don't like the votes of the Convention, simply attend the meetings and help make decisions.

Second, some say this resolution makes us look silly and offends non-Christians and homo-

sexuals. I agree. However, as God's children we should not become overly concerned about public approval.

Paul said he was a fool for Christ (1 Cor. 4:10). Jesus taught that we are not of this world (John 15:18-19). Peter and Paul taught of separation and alienation from society (1 Peter 2:11; 2 Cor. 6:17).

We can't please people and God. Declaring God's standard to those holding different world views naturally causes tension and conflict.

Third, some say depriving children of Disney entertainment is an unwinnable struggle. Have we really come so far that mere entertainment is our main drive in life? We're talking about sacrificing one source of entertainment; not food, shelter, or clothing. Children did just fine for millennia without essential Disney entertainment.

God has given parents the responsibility for disciplining children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, not in entertainment and feeling accepted by a non-Christian society. Though it hurts, our children must learn that being Christian in a non-Christian society often carries a heavy price.

I don't spend all my time shut

up in the church. I enjoy secular entertainment. However, living a holy Christian life requires that I accept godly standards which I refuse to compromise. We must all determine these for ourselves under the conviction of the Spirit, and we should not judge one another, or use as a test of fellowship, decisions of unexplicit precepts (Rom. 14:3).

We can't stomp out sin, but that doesn't mean blind support of it is acceptable. Christ didn't condemn the woman caught in adultery, but he did castigate (chastise, correct) her (John 8:11).

Don't worry about leaving the entertainment industry in the hands of the "R"-rated, frontal-nudity, bare-bottom, bathroom-language crowd. Disney's current practices indicate the industry's persuasion. However, touch the stockholders' pockets and the policy will change.

I don't condemn the individuals of Disney, but a boycott can be a powerful chastisement of, and a refusal to financially support, the company's activities. They said they don't really need Baptist business anyway (ABC "World News Tonight," June 10).

Long is pastor of Perkinson Church, Perkinson.

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Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.  
Associate Editor.....Carl M. White  
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey  
Layout/Advertising.....Shannon T. Simpson  
Proofreader/Secretary.....Debbie Sills  
Editors Emeritus.....Don McGregor, Guy Henderson

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# Mississippians among 52 appointed to foreign mission service

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board (FMB) on June 12 appointed 54 missionaries during a service at the Superdome in New Orleans.

Among those appointed with Mississippi connections were: **Clay J. and Vicky Moss**, **Matthew L. and Shea Williams**, **G. Timothy and Beth Tew**, and **Dudley A. and Romi Plaisance**.

The Mosses will live in Romania, where he will work as a volunteer coordinator and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. He attends New Orleans Seminary. Recently he was a teacher at Oakley Training School in Raymond. They are members of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton.

He received the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi College. He also attended the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

He was minister of youth and later minister of evangelism and missions at First Church, Richland; a Southern Baptist worker in Idaho, where he was pastor of Tammany View Church, Lewiston; and a Southern Baptist worker in Malawi.

Born in Jackson, Mrs. Moss, the former Vicky Rogers, is the daughter of Collis G. Rogers of Brandon, and L. Margaret Rogers of Richland. She grew up in Richland and considers it her hometown.

The Plaisances, named representatives of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization, will live in central Asia.

Since 1993 he has been pastor of Bethel Church, Brandon.

Born in Raceland, La., Plaisance considers First Church, Larose, La., and Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, his home churches.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, La., and the master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary, Memphis. He also attended Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson.

He was a church planter for Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, and a counselor at Mid-South Hospital in Memphis.

Born in La Mesa, Calif., Mrs. Plaisance, the former Romi Coman, considers Thibodaux, La., her hometown and Calvary Church, Thibodaux, and Colonial Hills Church her home churches.



Clay and Vicky Moss

The Tews will live in the Philippines, where he will teach in a seminary.

Timothy Tew received the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He was pastor of Flat Top Unity Church, Picayune.

Born in Mobile, Mrs. Tew is the former Beth Williamson of Saraland, Ala.

The Williamses will live in Indonesia, where he will start and develop churches and teach theology.

Since 1994 he has been pastor of East Fork Church, Smithdale.

Born in Yazoo City, Williams is the son of the Mr. and Mrs. Billy Williams of Gautier. His father is pastor of First Church, Gautier.

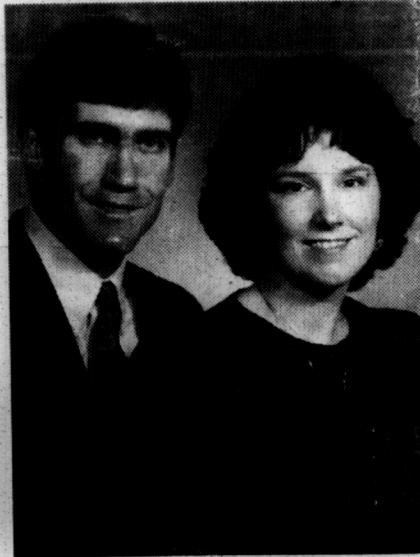
While growing up he also lived in Kosciusko, Columbia, and Gautier. He considers Gautier his hometown and First Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Born and reared in Natchez, Mrs. Williams, the former Shea Dungan, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dungan of that city. She considers Parkway Church there her home church.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Currently she is the volunteer youth minister at East Fork Church and a volunteer counselor at Crisis Pregnancy Center in McComb.



Matthew and Shea Williams



Timothy and Beth Tew



Dudley and Romi Plaisance

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## The Baptist Record

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### Pontotoc federal court ruling won't be appealed, board says

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The Pontotoc County School Board will not appeal a federal judge's ruling in the lawsuit filed by Lisa Herdahl, a local resident who objected to religious activities at her children's Ecru school.

While U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers' June decision struck down certain activities, such as daily devotionals over the school intercom at North Pontotoc Attendance Center, school board members in a July 3 statement said religious freedom was actually expanded by the court's decision in *Herdahl vs. Pontotoc County*.

"Judge Biggers made clear that the teaching of the Bible has a rightful place in the public schools. The school district also believes it is important to note that the principles of the Equal Access Act have been expanded to elementary grades, at least for the Northern (federal court) District of Mississippi," the statement said.

The congressionally-mandated

Equal Access Act, in general terms, compels public schools to allow religious activities to be conducted under the same established guidelines as other, non-religious activities at the school.

"For the past year over 1,200 students at North Pontotoc Attendance Center have attended on a daily basis student-led devotions in the school's gymnasium," the statement reported.

Board members also said the court ruling cleared the way for continuance of the biblical history course in county schools as long as the course is taught in an "objective, non-sectarian manner."

"We believe that the net effect of the court decision is that there will be more religious expressions by students now than before the lawsuit was filed," board members said.

Representatives for Herdahl and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which assisted Herdahl in

the lawsuit, have criticized the school board for characterizing Biggers' decision as a victory for the school district.

Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, said June 8 the court's ruling clarified a number of issues and opened the prospect of further religious expression by public school students.

"Elementary school students have not previously been thought of as specifically covered under the Equal Access Act. The federal court has now apparently provided younger children with a way to protect their right to religious expression, and that's a major step forward," Jones explained.

"Judge Biggers also affirmed that students can exercise their constitutional right to pray, such as a blessing before lunch. We have always contended that students in public schools can pray as individuals," he pointed out.

### State's CP gifts nearly half a million ahead of budget

Mississippi Baptists have given a total of \$12 million in the first six months of 1996 through the Cooperative Program (CP), according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The total amount is \$12,135,042, which is \$337,898, or 2.86%, more than that given for the same period of 1995.

Giving for June was \$1,584,029, a drop of \$341,033 from June of 1995.

Pro rata giving is nearly a half million dollars ahead. The pro rata amount for one half of the budget year is \$11,640,492. Gifts are ahead of that amount by \$494,550, or 4.25%.

The CP funds such programs as the Growing Churches conferences at Gulfshore Assembly and the camping programs for children and teens at Camp Garaywa in Clinton and Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko.

### SBC Cooperative Program month down, year still up

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program gifts for the month of June dropped 1.77% under the previous year's month but the year's total is 1.93% above last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The total for June, \$12,494,743, is \$225,217 below that of June 1995, or a 1.77% decrease. But the SBC's year-to-date total, from October through June, is 1.93% above the same period for the previous year: \$111,422,676 compared to \$109,314,279, or an increase of \$2,108,396.

Designated gifts for the month of June dropped from the previous year's month: \$14,151,977 compared to \$15,919,773, a \$1,767,796 difference, or an 11.1% decrease. However, for the year to date, the 1995-96 year totals are \$128,430,793 compared to the previous year of \$121,703,728, a difference of \$6,727,065, or a 5.53% increase.





## Convention goers

Bill Smith (center), Lee Association director of missions, visits before the start of a June 12 Southern Baptist Convention session in New Orleans with Talmadge Smith (right), director of missions for Lincoln Association, and Donnie Payne, former pastor of Sylvarena Church, Wesson, and presently a director of missions in Alabama. For more photos of Mississippians at the Southern Baptist Convention, please turn to page 5. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Partnerships with Colorado, Venezuela fostering growth

The partnership between Mississippi Baptists and Colorado Baptists provides multiple opportunities to strengthen new churches and missions, as indicated by the following requests:

Castle Valley Community Church needs a bivocational music minister to lead worship and orchestra for contemporary worship (six months to one year commitment).

The church also needs video projector and laptop computer

Castle Peak Community Church needs \$1,500 per month support; sound system; computer equipment; projection screen; classroom supplies; Bibles for worship; storage containers; property.

Copper Mountain Community Church needs battery-operated sound system for resort ministries. The church also needs an electric keyboard and a servanthood school of evangelism (ski possibilities).

Antonito Mission of First Southern Baptist Church, Del Norte, needs cellular phone sponsor for pastor (three year cost is \$1,275).

Director of Missions, Continental Divide Association (11 counties) needs cellular phone sponsor (three year cost is \$1,275).

Fort Garland-Blanco/Del Norte Baptist Fellowship needs cellular phone sponsor (three year cost is \$1,275).

Villa Grove, Moffat, and Howard Missions need cellular phone sponsor for three years.

O-Be-Joyful Church, Crested Butte, needs three building lots.

Projects for the Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership in 1997 are beginning to arrive:

Construction/evangelism team (six to eight people) in Maracay, Jan. 10-20, 1997.

Chapel construction team (four people) in La Puerta in the Andes Mountains, April/May.

For more information, contact Partnership Missions Office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 957-0854 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Naylor seeks books, nurses for Bangalore Hosp. projects

Rebekah Naylor, Southern Baptist missionary physician in Bangalore, India, is asking for the assistance of Mississippi Baptists in stocking a medical library and training nursing students at Bangalore Baptist Hospital where she practices medicine and serves as an associate superintendent.

"We have residency training programs in medicine, surgery, OB/gyn, and pediatrics. Recent edition books are very helpful," Naylor said.

One of the greatest needs in the medical library campaign is postage to ship books that have already been collected — a

process that may take three to four months under the "M"-bag postal system.

Naylor also appealed for volunteer nurse educators for a period of one to four months to train the 20 students accepted into the first class at the hospital's nursing school, which was dedicated June 14.

For more information on the medical library campaign and the nursing school, contact the Woman's Missionary Union Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

# Racial accusations false, hurtful claims Magee church's pastor

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Allegations that the June 5 appearance of an African-American youth at Beulah Church, Magee, prompted cancellation of Wednesday evening services are simply untrue, according to pastor Billy Ingram.

"No services were cancelled, and the young man was not turned away," he said.

The incident had its beginnings a few weeks prior to June 5, Ingram explained, when two adults who work with youth at the church promised they would foot the bill for a pizza party at a Magee restaurant if the church's young people attended revival services.

"These men were going to pay for the pizza out of their own

pocket; this was not something sponsored by the church.

"They were expecting six to eight young people for the party, and when 18 young people showed up, they simply didn't have the means or money to take them all. That's why the pizza party was cancelled," Ingram said.

Among the disappointed young people were three brothers and their African-American friend. The mother of the three brothers — one of whom was baptized at the church — had earlier dropped them off, Ingram said.

Regular church-sponsored Wednesday evening activities proceeded, however, including a devotional time and baseball game for the young people while adults

met inside the church, the pastor explained.

"All the children went home after the regular services ended. Arrangements had been made to take these four children home at the end of the evening, and that's what happened.

"There was never a racial intention," Ingram stressed.

A male acquaintance of the mother of the three brothers telephoned Ingram at his home on June 7 to complain, and the pastor said he explained the situation to him.

Secular news media outlets were apparently given erroneous information about the cancelled party along with a suggestion that the cancellation was racially motivated, Ingram said, and his telephone began ringing soon after that.

"The deacons and I took time to talk with the reporters and explain the situation, but it was like they came here with a predetermined idea and it didn't matter what we said.

"Their news reports were inaccurate and incomplete, and the church has been hurt by that," Ingram said.

Members of the 187-member congregation want to move past the controversy and get on with the work they believe God has called them to do, the pastor pointed out, but they also want the truth to be known.

"We've never turned anyone away. Worshipers will always be welcome here," Ingram said.

## 12 states benefit from disbursement of SBC's arson fund offering

NASHVILLE (BP) — Twelve state conventions received \$246,712 from the Southern Baptist Convention's "Arson Fund" to assist African American churches victimized by arson, according to the SBC Executive Committee's business and finance office July 3.

The disbursement of monies, primarily from the offering taken at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans June 11-13, followed instructions of the Inter-Agency Council's Racial Reconciliation Task Force which formulated the percentage allotment to the 12 states. The offering taken at the New Orleans meeting, at the request of then-SBC President Jim Henry, Orlando, Fla., pastor, raised \$282,000 in pledges and cash gifts.

Jack Wilkerson, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance, said the July 3 disbursement is primarily the New Orleans offering funds, including \$50,000 cash each from the Georgia, Florida, and Alabama state conventions which had been pledged in New Orleans. An additional pledge, \$15,000 from Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tenn., in suburban Memphis, also has been received and was included in the July 3 disbursement, Wilkerson said.

The 12 states receiving the gifts, the percentage ratio established by the task force, and the actual July 3 disbursements: Alabama, 9.7%, \$23,931; Arkansas, 2.8%, \$6,907; Florida, 4.2%, \$10,361; Georgia, 1.4%, \$3,453; Louisiana, 11.1%, \$27,385; Mississippi, 9.7%, \$23,931; North Carolina, 9.7%, \$23,931; Oklahoma, 1.4%, \$3,453; South Carolina, 20.8%, \$51,316; Tennessee, 11.1%, \$27,385; Texas, 15.3%, \$37,747; and Virginia, 2.8%, \$6,907.

In addition, Southern Baptist construction crews are volunteering to immediately begin rebuilding the

burned churches. Presently, four Baptist state conventions have sent crews to churches in need and the SBC Brotherhood Commission is attempting to contact each of the fire-damaged congregations to assess the level of need.

Donations to the SBC "Arson Fund" may be sent directly to Baptist state convention offices or the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203.

## Evangelists' Profile

This space is dedicated to Mississippi men and women who have committed themselves to vocational evangelism. Churches are encouraged to take advantage of their talents in helping to reap the harvest.

### This week's evangelist

Jerry Swimmer  
Iuka

**Years in Ministry:** 30, 19 in full-time evangelism.

**Education:** Temple University; New Orleans Seminary.

**Places of service:** 40 states, three foreign countries; served in church staff positions for 14 years in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

**Focal ministry:** Revival preaching and/or music. The SBC's only "preaching-singing evangelist from the tribe of Levi."

**Personal:** Past president, current officer, Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists; former music director, Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. Married 44 years to Betty Jean.

**Quote:** "When Jesus said, 'Whosoever...' I'm glad he included this young Jewish man from Philadelphia. I will see you here, there, or in the air. Let's bless our Mississippi Baptists."

**Address/telephone:** Jerry Swimmer  
1709 Mills Lane  
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(601) 431-3398

For more information or to be included in this space, contact Jerry Swimmer, president, Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists, 2000 N. 1st St., Jackson, MS 39201.

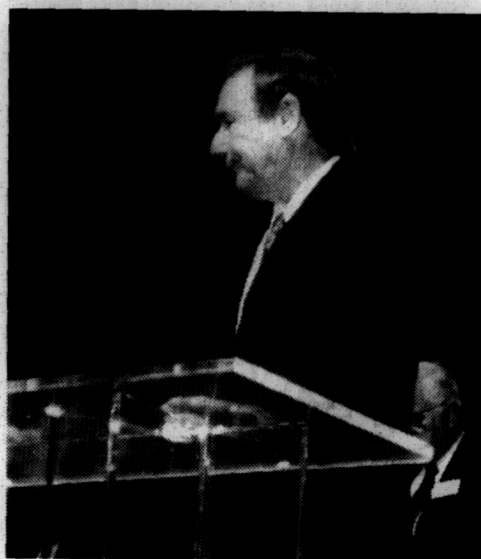


# Mississippians at the Southern Baptist Convention

June 11-13, 1996 — New Orleans, La.



**Clark Stewart** (above, left), pastor of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, and president of the Mississippi Pastors' Conference, assists **Michael Weeks** (above, right) and his family at the Credentials Committee booth at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans. **Weeks**, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, was accompanied by his son **Austin** (second from right), wife **Brenda** (third from right) and daughter **Courtney**. **Richard Powell** (below, left), pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, helps with the forms for **Lynn Fontenot** (below, right), pastor of Christ Church, Houma, La., at the Credentials Committee booth. **Mickey Henderson** (below, center), a native Mississippian and current minister of music at Eastside Church, Marietta, Ga., was also a member of the 1996 Credentials Committee.



**Joe Strahan**, pastor of Northside Church, Vicksburg, steps down from the podium after offering a prayer for revival during the June 12 morning session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting at the Superdome in New Orleans.



**George W. Puckett**, minister of music at First Church, Mendenhall, leads congregational singing June 10 at the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference at the Superdome in New Orleans. The Pastors' Conference is held each year just before the start of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.



**Jo Ann Berger** (second from left) was elected corresponding secretary of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Association at the group's meeting during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans. Congratulating her were husband **George** (left) director of missions for Lebanon Association; and **Rex and Mary Alice Braswell** of Hattiesburg.



**Larry Otis** (left) of Tupelo and his wife **Julia** (second from left) visit in the Southern Baptist Convention exhibit area with **Joe Bruce** (second from right) and his wife **Shirley**. **Joe Bruce** serves as an area director for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.



**Eddy Perry** (right), manager of the Baptist Bookstore in Jackson, assists convention goers **Emily** (left), **Sally** (second from left) and **Mary Pereira** of Black Mountain, N.C., at the Baptist Book Store exhibit on the floor of the Superdome. **Perry** was one of several Baptist Book Store managers from around the country drafted to help manage the large book store exhibit during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.





**Sixty-six golfers** from five states competed in the William Carey College Minister's Golf Tournament recently at the Timberton Golf Course in Hattiesburg and Pine Creek Golf Club in Purvis. Winners were pre-

sented awards by James Edwards, chancellor; Rory Lee, president; and Larry Kennedy, dean of the School of Missions and Biblical Studies. Winners were chosen from combined scores collected from two days of play.

## Revival Dates

**Calvary Church, Columbus:** July 14-18; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 12:15 and 7 p.m.; James Parker, Monroe, La., evangelist; Rusty Thomaston, Columbus, music; Roy Hawkins, pastor.

**Macedonia (Simpson):** July 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bendon Ginn, evangelist; John Yates, music; Gene Erwin, pastor.

**Gore Springs (Grenada):** July 21-26; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; James Fancher, Florence, evangelist; Tommy Gillon, Winona, music; Dwayne Kelly, pastor.

**D'Lo (Simpson):** July 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Houston Adkins, Sylva, evangelist; Bob Harris, D'Lo, music; Robert Sones, pastor.

**Siloam, Meadville:** July 21-24; services, 7 p.m.; Keith Powell, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Herman Clark Jr., Siloam Church, music; David A. Crowe, pastor.

**Calvary, Forest:** July 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Forest, evangelist; John Ladd, Forest, music; Martin Williams, pastor.

**Friendship, Brookhaven:** July 14-19; 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; T.A. "Red" Michel, Nashville, evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; Wiley Reid, pastor.

**Sunrise, Carthage:** July 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon lunch, and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, Jackson, evangelist; Steve Turner, Carthage, music; H. Frank Smith, pastor.

**Longview, Starkville:** July 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; J. Frank Smith, McComb, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carter, Starkville, music; Donald Pouns, pastor.

**Glendale, Leland:** July 14-18; 7 p.m.; Jay Richardson, Greenville, evangelist; Robert Nichols, Greenville, music; Keith Dendy, pastor.

**Moak's Creek, Summit:** July 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch in fellowship hall, and

1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, McComb, evangelist; Floyd Grice, Laurel, music; Billy J. Howse, pastor.

**Johns (Rankin):** July 14-17; regular Sunday morning services; dinner on the grounds followed by

afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Tim Canterbury, Brandon, evangelist; K.W. Douglas, Johns, music; Howard Benton, pastor.

**Wesson, Wesson:** July 14-17; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Darrell Robinson, evangelist.

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# Staff Changes

**Hillsboro Church, Forest**, has called **Jimmy Sellers** as pastor effective June 1. A native of Jackson, Sellers received his education at Clarke College, Mississippi College, and a diploma from Seminary Extension Pastoral Ministry. His previous place of service was Yale Street Church, Cleveland.

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has called **Barry Hathcock** as minister of music effective June 15. Hathcock is a native of Memphis. His previous place of service was Hope Church, West Point.

**Raymond Church, Raymond**, has called **Bob Robinson** as minister to students/minister of education. The Raymond native previously served Macedonia Church, Brookhaven. Robinson is a graduate of Mississippi College and Reformed Theological Seminary.



Robinson

**Slayden Church, Lamar**, has called **Gary Wayne Adams** as pastor effective April 28. A native of Jackson, he received his educa-

tion at Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. His most recent pastorate was First Church, Charleston.

**Jerry W. Smith** has accepted a call to pastor The Baptist Fellowship of Randolph, Vt. He and his wife **Jane**, originally from Iuka, started July 1 on the home mission field of Vermont. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Seminary. He has served as pastor of Lula Church, Lula, and minister of youth and associate pastor of East McComb, McComb, and previously served as minister of education at First Church, Florence. Their address will be P O Box 344, Randolph, VT 05060.



Smith

**Steve Warren**, a native of Madison, has accepted a call as minister of music from Central Church, Corbin, Ky., effective June 15. His previous place of service was First Church, Florence.

**Calvary Church, Greenville**, has called **Dave Tribble** as minister of music and education, effective June 3. A native of Greenville, he received his education at Delta State University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Friendship

Church, Aberdeen.

**Macedonia Church, Simpson Association**, has called **Gene Erwin** as pastor effective June 23. His previous place of service was Georgetown Church, Copiah County.

**First Church, Leakesville**, has called **Jimmy Kettleman Jr.** as pastor. A native of Holly Bluff, Kettleman received his education at Kettleman Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was McAdams Church.



Kettleman

**John G. McCall** has been called to serve **First Church, Long Beach**, as associate pastor/minister of music. He previously served as minister of music at First Church, Tullahoma, Tenn., for 16 years. McCall is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. He is married to the former Virginia Bigham of West Point.

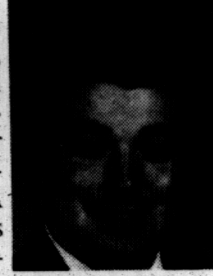


McCall

**David Lee** has been called as

interim pastor at **Calvary Church, Greenville**, effective June 16. A native of Greenville, Lee received his education at Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Southside Church, Benoit.

**West Laurel Church, Jones Association**, has called **Michael Morgan** as minister of youth effective June 9. A native of Jones County, Morgan received his education at



Morgan

**William Carey College** and is enrolled in the M.A.C.E. degree program of New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Lucedale.

**First Church, Coffeeville**, has called **Daniel A. Hathorne** as pastor, effective June 16. A native of Soso, Hathorne received his education at the University of Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was Pittsboro Church, Pittsboro.

**Gore Springs Church, Grenada County**, has called **Dwayne Kelly** as pastor. He previously pastored Poplar Flat Church, Louisville, for five years. Kelly is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He and his family will move on the field in mid-July.

## Nominations deadline approaching for service on boards, commissions

The deadline is approaching for nominations of qualified Baptists to serve on boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, according to Wayne Edwards, chairman of the committee on nominations and director of missions for Lauderdale Association.

Edwards said all nominations must be received no later than the close of business on Wednesday, July 31.

Boards and commissions with vacancies to be filled include:

- Board of Ministerial Education.
- Christian Action Commission.
- Education Commission.
- Historical Commission.
- Children's Village.
- Baptist Foundation.
- Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (Jackson).
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis).
- Blue Mountain College.

- Mississippi College.
- William Carey College.
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive director-treasurer, and must be returned to the office of the executive director-treasurer or directly to Edwards by the deadline.

The MBCB executive director-treasurer can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Edwards can be reached at 2641 24th Ave., Meridian, MS 39305. Telephone: (601) 483-1419.

## Homecomings

**Goodwater, Forest:** July 14; 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; Goodwater Cemetery Association business meeting, 1:30 p.m.; Charles Pickering, guest speaker; Robin Brumfield, pastor.

**First, Eudora (Northwest):** July 21; noon meal will follow morning worship service.

**Southside, Vicksburg:** July 14; church anniversary celebration and high attendance day; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; fellowship lunch, noon; "Singspiration" service and church history, 1:30 p.m.; The Tarvers, music; Sammy J. McDonald, pastor.

## VBS Results

**Gore Springs (Grenada):** June 3-7; 30 students and 17 workers enrolled; offering received for Cooperative Program was \$71.51. Guy Reedy, interim pastor.

**East Mt. Zion (Lee):** June 10-14; 108, average attendance; 185 attended program Sunday night; Becky Cagle, director; Gerald Cagle, pastor.

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**Leawood Baptist Church Memphis, TN**

will celebrate their 50th Anniversary Nov. 9-10, 1996. We are trying to find former members. Please write us at 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122, or call (901) 324-7169. All former members and friends of Leawood are urged to put this date on their calendar and plan to attend.



## Just for the Record



**Richmond Church, Tupelo**, recently held a note burning ceremony in celebration of the retirement of the debt on its education and recreation building. Participating in the event (from left) were: Sean K. Tutor Sr., pastor; trustees C.W. "Billy" Shumpert, Larry Lindsey, and Benny Williams.



**New Prospect Church in the Lewisburg community** (Northwest Association) recently held a dedication service for its new building. John Perkins, director of missions for Northwest Association, delivered the dedication message. Founded in 1869, the church facilities were struck by lightning on June 7, 1994. The resultant fire totally destroyed the church's facilities, but the membership stayed together to rebuild. Jim Craig is interim pastor.

### Bethesda Church, Terry, marks sesquicentennial anniversary

Bethesda Church, Terry, celebrated its 150th anniversary on June 1-2.

The festivities began with a Saturday afternoon fellowship on June 1. Activities included children's sack races, moon walk, and other games. Adults participated in a costume contest and an old-fashioned music session. The day concluded with a cookout.

On June 2, the church history was read. Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presented the church a commemorative plaque from the Historical Commission and delivered the morning sermon. The choir presented special music, and a dinner on the grounds was later served.

Following the meal, members shared testimonies of the church's

influence, and historical memorabilia was displayed.

### Vacation Bible Schools

**Old Union, Shannon:** July 15-18; 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.; pre-registration July 12, 6:30 p.m.; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

**Pocahontas (Metro):** July 15-19; 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.; carnival, July 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Steve Jordan, pastor.

**William Carey College Center for Creative Scholars** will host the fifth annual Creativity Exploration July 22-24 for second through sixth graders and July 23-26 for seventh through twelfth graders from 9 a.m. until mid-afternoon on the Hattiesburg campus. For more information, contact Trudy Abel, William Carey College, Box 148, 498 Tuscan Ave., Hattiesburg MS 39401-5499; telephone (601) 582-6205.

**First Church, Crystal Springs**, will host the Travis Avenue (Fort Worth) Church youth choir in concert on July 18 at 7 p.m. The 80 singers, ages 13-18, are en route to Philadelphia, Penn., where they will conduct in inner-city Vacation Bible Schools and lead in revival services.

**Bible Study Workshops** for students, potential leaders, or current leaders will be held July 25-27 at First Church, Jackson. The workshops are sponsored by Precept Ministries of Chattanooga, Tenn. For more information contact Jeanne Greer at (601) 956-4706, or Dixie Ball, 981-8938.

**FORT WORTH (BP) — The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Commission on Accrediting** has reaffirmed the accreditation of Southwestern Seminary and lifted the two-year probation imposed in January 1995 following the dismissal of then-President Russell Dilday.

**Slayden Church, Lamar**, on May 19 celebrated the completion of the third phase of its building program, a 12,000-square-foot education facility. The church recently completed a new sanctuary and activities center/gymnasium. Gary Wayne Adams is pastor.

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**Bethany Church, Meridian**, dedicated its new two Octave Handbells on March 24 during the morning service. For the first time in the history of the church the music ministry has an enrollment of 100 with four choirs. Handbell choir members, from left, are Cathy Webb, Robin Butler, Shirley Murphy, Teresa Goodman, Amy Branning, Jeanne Havard, Debbie Shirley, Betty Clark, Martha Williams, Andy Murphy, and Jerry Murphy, minister of music. Jimmie D. Garrard Sr. is pastor.



**Vaiden Church, Vaiden**, recently honored its senior adult "Live Wires" with a banquet. Featured speaker to the 50 guests was Pruitt Calvert of Louisville. On the Sunday following the banquet, the senior adults filled the choir and the duties of the service. Cody Dean (back row, right) is senior adult coordinator and organist.

**Antioch Church, Union**, will host a singing on July 11. Featured guests will be the Greenes of Boone, N.C. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 986-8761. James Young is pastor.

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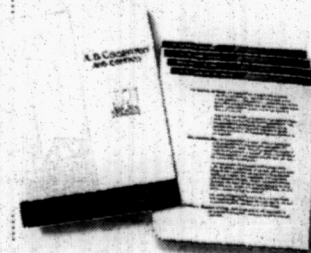
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# Names in the News



**Oak Grove Church, Lake**, recently held a deacon ordination service for **Ted Jones**. Pictured (from left) are Jones; Victor R. Vaughn Sr., pastor, Oak Grove Church; Laverne Summerlin, pastor of First Church, Lake; John Sharp, director of missions, Scott Association.



**Poplar Church, Conehatta**, nominated **John Fulcher** as deacon and ordained **Phil Waltman** as deacon. Pictured (from left) are Fulcher; Curtis Price, pastor; Waltman; and Frank Edwards, deacon for over 50 years.



**Emmanuel Church, Ocean Springs**, recently ordained **Robert Melvin** and **Harvey Holloway** as deacons. The ordination service, led by Sanford Sherman, included a charge to the wives by Darrel Holloway and a charge of the candidates by Ernest Sadler, executive director for Jackson County Association. Sherman preached the ordination message. Pictured (from right to left) are Robert Melvin, Sandra Melvin, Lavada Holloway, and Harvey Holloway.

**BERLIN (ABP)** — **Helen Brannon of Phoenix, Ariz.**, a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missions volunteer in Germany, died from injuries sustained in an accident June 8. Brannon apparently lost her balance and fell from a railing of a building near Berlin where she and other volunteers were housed. She fell 25 feet

through a skylight. After being discovered by another volunteer, she was rushed to a nearby hospital where she died several hours later.

**Seven William Carey College students** were recently initiated into Kappa Mu Epsilon, the largest mathematics honorary in the U.S. Initiated as members were **Vivian Anderson**, Purvis; **Callie Caruth**, McComb; **Angela Crocker**, Picayune; **John Miller**, Columbia; **Sany Rajagukguk**, Indonesia; **Shaun Selman**, Crystal Springs, and **Angela Tillman**, Vancleave.

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)** — **Ricky George**, a Baylor University student from Vicksburg, has been selected as the first student journalism intern by Associated Baptist Press. George, 21, is a journalism major who recently completed his junior year. He will work eight weeks this summer covering

news for the independent Baptist news service located in Jacksonville, Fla.

**Ebenezer Church, Attala Association**, held ordination services for **Harvey Overstreet** June 9, with **Curtis Armstrong**, pastor, Sand Hill Church, Attala Association, presiding. Others on program included **Dewitt Cutts**, pastor emeritus, Bethsaida Church, Montgomery Association; **Sammy Ray**, pastor, Peeler Memorial Church, Attala Association; and **Kenneth Mangrum**, chairman of deacons, Ebenezer Church.

**Mary Alice Ditworth**, missionary to Indonesia, is on furlough. Her address in the states is 4708 Old Mobile Avenue, Pascagoula MS 39581.

**Jim Booth**, consultant for the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be one of the preachers for the annual Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf. The conference will meet at Oklahoma Baptist University in



**Calvary Church, Canton**, held deacon ordination services on May 12 for **Tom Lampkin** and **Howard Acy**. Pictured (from left) are **Jim Hurt**, interim pastor; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lampkin; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Acy; and **Terrell Lampkin**, chairman of deacons. On June 30, the church will hold **Roll Call Day** during the 10:15 a.m. service, followed by lunch and a musical concert from 1:30-2:30 p.m. **Louis Jones** is interim music director.

**Shawnee, Okla.**, on July 13-19. Booth, who also serves as pastor to the deaf congregation at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, works with other pastors to the deaf in conjunc-

tion with the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf to develop Sunday School teaching materials.

**Myrtle Porter**, secretary for Pearl River Association, will retire after 28 years of service. She will be honored with a reception on July 14 at 3 p.m. in the association's Lee Conference Center. The association will present her with an all-expense paid trip to Alaska. **Ken Rhodes** is director of missions.



**Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stanley McGuffee** of Pearl recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. He entered the ministry in 1956 and in his 40 years has pastored churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Alabama. In 1978 he participated in a crusade in India. Natives of McComb, they were married in the East McComb Church in 1946. They have six children, 18 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Two of their sons are in the ministry.

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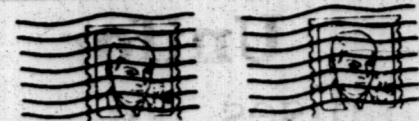
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# Letters to the editor



## ABP born of necessity

Editor:

Perhaps I need to answer the letter about Associated Baptist Press (ABP) written by Thomas M. Atwood (June 6, 1996 issue). I was the first executive director of ABP. I was there when ABP was conceived and when it was born. And it was all done "in the name of objectivity."

All of the editors of Baptist Press have been fine journalists. W.C. Fields had been editor of *The Baptist Record* and a friend. Al Shackleford and Dan Martin are friends, as are the two at Baptist Press now, Herb Hollinger and Art Toalston. Art used to be the religion editor for the *Jackson Daily News*.

But it would take just one dictator such as there was on the Executive Committee when Al and Dan were fired to blow the whole thing out of the water.

I was chairman of the Baptist Press Liaison Committee, and I fought awfully hard for Baptist Press. Still, after the convention in 1990, it was apparent that something horribly wrong was fixing to be done to Baptist Press. I called the editors together at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport to discuss the situation. That meeting was July 6 and 7, 1990.

The editors agreed to make the networking situation work. It was here the ABP was conceived. It was in a small group of about 10 to 12 editors. I didn't come up with the idea. Bob Terry, editor of *The Alabama Baptist*, did that. We agreed on a completely autonomous, self-perpetuating board. I am on the board, though no longer the executive director.

ABP was born July 19, 1990, the day Al and Dan got fired. We didn't know where the money would come from. We still don't. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) stepped in with some badly needed funds. There is no director on ABP board from CBF. It was all done "in the name of objectivity."

Don T. McGregor

Baptist Record editor emeritus  
Mesquite, Texas

## Conflicting info

Editor:

I found it ironic that the June 6 issue of *The Baptist Record* contained both a letter from a Mississippi pastor pointing out the obvious bias of the Associated Baptist Press (ABP), as well as several articles supportive of his point.

In an article entitled "Election likely to swing SBC back to conservative wing" (p. 3), the ABP said that Jim Henry's tenure as president, "loosened — at least slightly — the tight grip hard line conservatives have held on SBC leadership since 1979, when they began a successful campaign to wrest control of the 15 million-member convention from moderates." First, the bias is obvious. Second, no action has been taken in the convention without the

majority approval of registered, voting messengers. For the ABP to make this sound like a hostile takeover by a small, aberrant group is ludicrous.

Next, in the same article, the ABP legitimated a comment that the convention needs a "wide open election process, as in years past, when five or more presidential nominees were offered." As in the past, we do have a wide open election process! Anyone may nominate anyone else for office; this year it appears that the convention as a whole chose to stand behind one godly man, Tom Elliff. Additionally, the wide-open election process was clearly demonstrated at this convention with the election of the first and second vice presidents. Maybe the ABP would like to apply this same logic to our SBC registration secretary, who has served since the year King Uzziah died.

Another ABP article in the June 6 issue, "Louisiana College faculty angry at trustees over rejection of teacher" (p. 4), clearly attempts to tie the actions of the trustees at that school to the conservative resurgence. The negative inference is that the evil conservatives are stifling the freedom of individual professors to teach anything they want at the expense of Louisiana Baptists. The ABP reporter even felt the need to stereotype the trustees: "He (Stan Miller) agreed with the characterization that he was a 'conservative' on the board."

My conclusion is that the ABP is out of touch with Southern Baptist life. Those things which are positive about our convention are almost always portrayed in a negative way by the ABP, and I see no benefit in the inclusion of ABP articles in *The Baptist Record*.

Ken Dawson, pastor  
Temple Heights Church  
Oxford

## Hamburgers out, too?

Editor:

Hooray! Now that our faithful Pharisees have resolved that all good Christians are to boycott Disney, I no longer have to worry about being a good father. You see, I do not like crowded places. Certainly, Disney World has to be one of the most crowded places on earth due to its immense popularity. Therefore, I will no longer feel obligated to take my family there. Also, since I have long since outgrown cartoons, I will no longer feel obligated to take my family to the packed theaters to see Disney movies. Therefore, the resolution to boycott Disney products is a great comfort and convenience to me.

However, I do love cheeseburgers. With the righteous call to boycott now upon us all, I fear that my days of satisfying my fast-food cheeseburger cravings will soon come to an end. As we all know, McDonald's and Burger King collaborate regularly with Disney to promote Disney products at their restaurants. Therefore, as dedicated Christians, if we are to faithfully support and follow this right-

eous effort, I suppose we will soon be called upon to boycott McDonald's and Burger King as well. Woe is me!

But when this secondary boycott happens, and we godly men learn that our wives and sweethearts are taking our children to eat at McDonald's and Burger King behind our backs, what are we godly men to do? Alas, I fear we will soon be called upon to boycott our women too. But without a woman, what is a man to do?

David C. Frazier  
Pascagoula

## Proud of boycott

Editor:

I am so proud of the Southern Baptist Convention for voting to boycott Disney and its subsidiaries. It is disappointing to see that corporation slipping away — maybe I should say sliding — or maybe I should say catapulting — away from family values.

I am reminded of that famous quotation: "All it takes for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing."

I am thankful that Southern Baptists did something!

Carolyn E. Jones  
Greenwood

## Ministry to students

Editor:

Are there college and university students from your state who are coming to school on one of the many campuses in New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)? The Baptist Convention of New England serves these six states, and has ministry on 25 campuses.

If any of your readers have family, friends, or fellow church members who are coming to college in New England, we would like to know who they are and how to contact them. We would be happy to meet them at airports or train stations, and help them in any way.

Please send information to: Student Ministries, Baptist Convention of New England, 5 Oak Ave., Northborough, MA 01532; telephone (508) 393-6013/FAX (508) 393-6016.

Nell Magee, director  
Student ministries  
Baptist Convention  
of New England

## Exclusion ridiculous!

Editor:

Concerning the Baptist battle over whether women can be pastors, I learned of a Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) resolution I feel to be quite ridiculous! This is it: "A 1984 SBC resolution declared that women are excluded from pastoral leadership because the woman was the first to sin in the garden of Eden." I'd like to ask the SBC how much longer it's going to hold this against women.

If the SBC is keeping tabs on who sinned first, where the sin

took place, which sin it was, and so on, then it's high time the SBC climb down off the pride horse and learn how to forgive. Scriptures clearly teach that men are sinners, too, so I challenge the SBC to study up on that.

The article also states that "50 Southern Baptist women serve as senior pastors." I can't know what's in their hearts, but God knows. Scriptures also teach that God's ways are not our ways, so if God can use women as pastors to further his kingdom — and I believe he surely can — I'm for letting God work. The willing workers are often hindered by stumbling blocks we Southern Baptists build. Stiff-necked, unforgiving actions and attitudes probably keep us from receiving many of the blessings we might otherwise receive.

I thank God for my pastor, a man I pray for and a man who isn't too busy to pray for me or to pray with me. He has been my friend even when I've been unfriendly towards him. So I'm also thankful for all the women and men who have helped teach me about Christ, salvation, love, prayer, forgiveness, and much more! If God called a woman to be my pastor, I'd not object.

Jacky Campbell  
Natchez

## Thanks to program

Editor:

Bunker Hill Baptist Church, a small rural church, now has a minister of education, thanks to Chester Vaughn, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and the New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). The Christian Education Associate Program offered through NOBTS is the most practical help ever offered the small church. It will be to Christian education in the small church what penicillin has been to the medical community. Brother, that is not hyperbole... that is fact!

Pastor, how would you like to lighten your load? If you will encourage your church to provide the opportunity for a member or members to complete the Christian Education Associate Program, you will have in your church a well trained minister of education who can, with confidence and expertise, take the education program of your church to a greater level of efficiency.

Two years ago the people of Bunker Hill Church provided three scholarships to take advantage of the Christian Education Associate Program. One of those who completed the study was Jiles Grice, who was the Sunday School direc-

tor. The church has now called him to serve as minister of education and has given him the authority to serve in that capacity. He is already making a positive impact on the educational arm of this church.

This program of study has come to us through the mind of man, but it is so practical and of such great help and benefit to the small that it evidently is from the Lord. Thanks to Chester Vaughn, to the MBCB, to the NOBTS, and a very special thanks to Ken Rhodes who tirelessly led us through the completion of what I consider to be the most practical program in Southern Baptist history.

Jim Ray, pastor  
Bunker Hill Church  
Columbia

## Region in crisis

Editor:

Cornwall, England, is a land in crisis! Witchcraft is openly practiced; only 1% of the population professes to be Christian, and there remain only five Baptist churches in the entire region.

The condition of Cornwall was recently brought to our attention by a Southern Baptist missionary to England, who put us in contact with the only evangelical organization in this southern region of the country. This organization is actively involved in sharing Christ through door-to-door witnessing, local schools, study groups, and weekly prayer meetings. When we asked what we could do to help in their efforts, their president responded:

"We could use theological books, commentaries, study guides, and other literature which we might use to equip a new media center so pastors might have study materials available."

"Pray for us and our churches as we fight the forces of darkness for the souls of men."

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Brian Pannell  
Clinton

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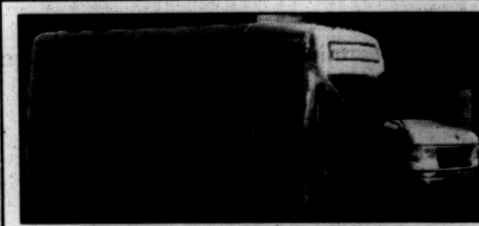
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## Uniform Promises, commitments



By Jim Phillips  
Psalm 105

I am convinced that were it not for the season of Thanksgiving in our country, people as a whole would fail to take time to be thankful. Perhaps it's a slam on the pace of the living of our days, but we too often have to be reminded of just what we've been given as Americans.

As a pastor, I have used Wednesday evening prayer meeting experiences to do just that for my people — a specific time whereby we contemplate just how God has blessed. Without exception, people walk away from such an exercise with a full and blessed heart, having reflected on God's blessings.

The psalmist had this in mind as he recounted how God had blessed him and the nation of Israel. He reveals something about which all Christians need to discover. It is simply this: there is power in praise! Many of the psalms were actual hymns used in worship to God. Like most of us, thoughts put to music and then sung or even hummed, have a tendency to stick in our minds. Have you ever had one of those days when you hear a tune on the way to work and for the length of the day you can't seem to shake it? This can be a positive experience if the right song is replayed.

Note that the psalm starts off with an imperative emphasis. It wasn't a suggestion that God's people express thanks to God — rather it was an expectation. It wasn't to be for their own edification only, but was to be a declaration to other nations as well. Remembering the wonders God had done was very much in keeping with Joshua's experience in Joshua 4:24. In that passage God had instructed the Israelites to gather 12 stones of remembrance which were to be taken to Gilgal and set up as a memorial. In years to come when asked about the stones, they were to recall how God had faithfully delivered them over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Their own descendants as well as all the people of the earth might then recognize God's power and strength.

The psalmist then lists a series of historical evidences whereby God had intervened on behalf of his children. When their enemies tried to take advantage of them, God would not allow it (vv. 12-15). He continued to raise up a leader who would see them through. Looking back over their holy history, some would have perhaps chalked certain circumstances up to chance. The truth of the matter was that God had continually taken steps to keep his children constantly in his grasp.

Recalling God's previous faithfulness, direction, and power impacts us for the present when trials and difficulties come. A journal whereby you record events in your life where God unmistakably moved is of great importance in the life of a Christian. God can be trusted. Where he has been faithful in the past he will be faithful in the future.

The psalmist felt whenever God's people could recall how he had delivered them before, they would in turn be comforted in the moment. Throughout the psalm he lists a series of events where the nation saw the hand of God at work. Just in case they forgot, he remembered for them. Because they were God's covenant people (vv. 8-11) they could rest in the fact that God would uphold his promise of protection and faithfulness.

He reminded them of God's deliverance (vv. 37-38, 43), God's direction (v. 39), God's provisions (vv. 40, 44), God's miracles (v. 41), and God's faithfulness (v. 42). The psalmist's desire was that by refreshing their minds and hearts with such fond remembrances, they would in turn obey God's law and precepts (v. 45).

It is out of a thankful heart that most of us obey best. When we can acknowledge the blessings of God, our obedience to his Word is easier. Love is always a better motivator than fear.

If today your heart is troubled and your mind confused, stop and recount how God has been faithful in your past. From your very birth until now, you have never been off of his mind. His faithfulness has formed a pathway for his blessings. Where you have found yourself able to rely on him in the past, that same grace is abundantly available now. Call out his name!

Phillips is pastor of North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

## Bible Book To the seven churches



By Ronald E. Bishop  
Revelation 2, 3

**To the church in Ephesus (2:1-7).** The messages of the letters to the seven churches have timeless application, since churches with similar characteristics are found in every age. The form of the letters is: salutation, identification of Jesus as author, commendation of the good work of the church, constructive criticism of the weak points of the church, call to repentance, and promise of reward to those who conquer.

Jesus commended the church at Ephesus for patient endurance. He knew that the members of that church could not tolerate evil men. However, in its desire to reject evil, the church had lost sight of the necessity of love among the members. He commended the church for its rejection of the Nicolaitans, a group that practiced immorality. He urged them to conquer and thus to eat of the tree of life.

**To the church in Smyrna (2:8-11).** Jesus found it impossible to say anything bad about the church at Smyrna. He commended the church for withstanding trials and informed the people there that they were rich in ways they had not thought of, though they were financially poor. Jesus promised to protect the church during a period of testing that was soon to begin.

**To the church in Pergamum (2:12-17).** Pergamum was an especially wicked place, also known as the place of Satan's throne. Jesus commended the church for holding fast to their faith despite opposition. Jesus urged the people at Pergamum to avoid the immorality and idolatry that some were teaching. He assured the people that, if they would be victorious, they would receive manna from heaven as well as a personal reward.

**To the church in Thyatira (2:18-29).** The church at Thyatira was getting better and better. Jesus commended the endurance, faith, and patience he saw there. Yet, a few in the church tolerated a false prophetess described as a Jezebel who taught idolatry and immorality. Jesus urged the church to reject her teaching and to receive a well-deserved reward. He commended those who already had rejected her teaching, promising those who conquer power over the nations.

**To the church in Sardis (3:1-6).** Jesus found little good to say about the Christians at Sardis. They thought they were alive but were quite dead. The seriousness of their condition can be seen in the series of imperatives Jesus used: awake, strengthen, remember, keep, and repent. He commended a small minority for their faithfulness and considered them worthy of reward. Jesus expected them to conquer and to have their names remain in the book of life.

**To the church in Philadelphia (3:7-13).** The small church at Philadelphia had a great opportunity which no one could take away. They had been faithful, and Jesus encouraged them to continue in faithfulness. Though they were persecuted, Jesus assured them that they eventually would be vindicated. Jesus promised to protect them from trials that were soon coming on others. No criticism is made against the Christians at Philadelphia. Jesus reminded them that continued faithfulness would result in eternal life in God's presence.

**To the church in Laodicea (3:14-16, 19-22).** This church was filled with Christians who couldn't decide whether they wanted to be serious about their faith or not. Jesus criticized them as being lukewarm and threatened to spew them out of his presence. They were conceited but were in great need of repentance.

It is easy to see that in these seven churches John found good things and bad things that were and are common among God's people. John tried to help first-century churches see that God's business is serious business, a lesson that churches living some 20 centuries later need to heed.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

## Life and Work Meaningful life



By Cynthia Douglas  
Ecclesiastes 12, Proverbs 1-8

How can I find the road to a meaningful life? Is life just work, stress, and survival? No. The Word of God describes how we can find the true meaning of life by trusting Jesus Christ as our Savior. This relationship to God as his child gives the greatest of joys to life. God sent his Son to pay the sin debt for us and such love puts a song in a believer's heart regardless of the stress of life.

**God offers a meaningful life (Eccl. 12:13-14; Prov. 1:7).** The last session showed the futility of human wisdom, while this study will focus on finding life's true meaning in God. The fear of the Lord, which is reverence and awe, is the beginning of knowledge. Knowledge is more than just an accumulation of facts. Wisdom includes knowledge and knowing how to live. The conclusion reached at the end of Ecclesiastes is that the real duty of man is to fear God and keep his commandments. Man's search for a meaningful life is found in a life which reverences and obeys God. Life may seem meaningless but the worship of God will give the real meaning to life.

**God is the true source (Prov. 2:1-8).** Wisdom comes from God. Verses 1-4 state the conditions of finding the knowledge of God. These verses tell us to accept his words, apply the truths, and to seek wisdom as if looking for silver and hidden treasure. Verse 5 says then you will find the knowledge of God. The Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth comes understanding. We must seek God because he alone is the true source of wisdom. Some ask, "If my life has meaning, how can I discover that meaning?" When we trust Jesus as our Savior, God gives meaning and fulfillment to our lives.

**God desires complete trust (Prov. 3:5-6).** God calls people to trust him in all phases of life. Life is like a road map in that God has set definite directions and guidelines. He directs the paths of those who trust in him. Life in this world tempts people to trust in themselves, money, status, or physical strength. God calls for a complete trust in him and cautions us not to rely on our own understanding. People are asking: Where can I go to find guidelines for my life? God promises when we trust him, and trust Jesus as our personal Savior, then he will direct our paths.

**God demands a decision (Prov. 8:35-36).** God offers eternal life with him to everyone. However, he gives to each person a freedom to make a choice. When we reverence, trust, and obey God, and accept Jesus as our Savior, he gives us eternal life. However, the person who fails to trust God "harms himself and all who hate me love death" (v. 36).

How wonderful that God has given us a road to a meaningful life! He wants us to find life's true meaning in him. The most important decision is to trust Jesus Christ as Savior. Romans 3:23, 6:23, and 5:8 tell of our sinful condition and God's perfect provision. Do you desire a meaningful life? God is the true source and he alone offers the abundant life.

Salvation is the first step on the road to a meaningful life. Have you admitted you are a sinner? Have you realized the wages of sin is death? God has a wonderful plan to deal with this sin debt that we cannot pay. He sent his Son who died a sacrificial death for us so we may have a meaningful life here on earth and spend an eternity with our loving Father!

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.





# capsules

**10 CHURCHES DESTROYED IN INDONESIA, NONE BAPTIST: SURABAYA, Indonesia (BP)** — Ten church buildings in the city of Surabaya were destroyed and at least one pastor left permanently lame by a mob who attacked during Sunday morning services June 9. None of the churches destroyed was Baptist. Still, a Foreign Mission Board administrator in Indonesia issued a call for prayer June 12 for Christians and government leaders to act in wisdom. Police arrested some in the mob of about 1,000 and found a list with about 50 churches they had targeted in Surabaya. It was unclear whether any is related to Southern Baptist work. At one church, people in the mob rushed the sanctuary, dragged the pastor off the platform and then flooded outside where they began burning motorcycles and other vehicles. Most churches were stoned and violently dismantled. Clay tile roofs typical of the area are easily shattered by rocks and stones, the administrator said.

**ALBANIA MISSIONARIES BAPTIZE 29: TIRANA, Albania (BP)** — Twenty-nine new believers — most of them teen-agers and young adults — were baptized into a new church at Fier, Albania, by Foreign Mission Board missionaries Gale Hartley and Lawrence Duhon. Most of the new Christians had been attending Bible studies for several months, Duhon said. Duhon, a Texan appointed as a missionary evangelist by the FMB in 1995, planned to move his residence to Fier to nurture the new Christians in that young church.

**DISNEY'S MIRAMAX CITED AS EXAMPLE OF SBC CONCERNS: NASHVILLE (BP)** — Less than a week after messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention voted to prayerfully consider a boycott of Disney products, the entertainment conglomerate announced it is cutting movie production in half. Walt Disney Company executives said the reorganization will allow for an increased emphasis on family movies. "Even though it seems the decision by the Disney Company is being driven only by finances, we are delighted that it will result in more family movies," said Bill Merrell, vice president for convention relations for the Executive Committee. "Unfortunately, the Disney subsidiary Miramax will apparently continue unabated on its course of producing objectionable films. It would delight us even more if Disney would return to the dreams and values of Walt Disney and to the very essence of what made the Disney company so great." Even the mainstream media have noticed Disney's increasing permissiveness in recent years, Merrell said — a trend which prompted the Southern Baptist Convention to approve consideration of a boycott during its annual meeting June 11-13 in New Orleans.

**THAI HILL TRIBES HEAR GOSPEL: BANGKLA, Thailand (BP)** — Five hill tribes in remote mountain regions of northern Thailand heard the gospel — most of them for the first time — when a team of missionaries conducted medical and dental clinics in six villages. More than 1,000 medical patients and 400 dental patients were treated, and more than 500 school children received health and dental screenings, reported John Gibson, a Foreign Mission Board missionary who directs Bangkok Baptist Hospital. About 2,500 people watched evangelistic films or programs, and 5,000 pieces of Christian literature were distributed. A church planter stayed two weeks after each clinic for follow-up ministry with new believers and village leaders.

**CHARLIE WARREN TO LEAVE HOME LIFE EDITOR'S POST: NASHVILLE (BP)** — Charlie Warren, editor of the Baptist Sunday School Board's *Home Life* magazine since January 1988, will leave the position July 31 as the board pursues new leadership and direction for the family publication, according to Gary Hauk, director of the Discipleship and Family Magazine Department. "During his tenure, Charlie has overseen a major redesign of *Home Life* that has moved the magazine forward in an excellent way," Hauk said. "I pray that the Lord will open a door of fulfilling service for him." Warren said, "*Home Life* has touched hundreds of thousands of lives during my eight years as the editor. I am grateful that God chose to use me in such a high-impact ministry. I am confident he will guide me to my next opportunity to serve him." Before joining the board, Warren served for eight and a half years as associate editor of the *Baptist & Reflector*, Baptist state newspaper of Tennessee. Earlier, he was an associate editor at the Brotherhood Commission and senior editor at the Foreign Mission Board. *Home Life*, which has been published by the board for 49 years, has a monthly circulation of 525,000.

**PRAYER CALL FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS: MILL CREEK, Wash. (BP)** — A fellowship of evangelical groups has called for Christians worldwide to join Sept. 29 in a day of prayer and fasting for persecuted believers. "The greatest untold story of this decade is the discrimination, harassment, and persecution of Christians throughout the world," said Brian O'Connell, director of the Religious Liberty Commission of the World Evangelical Fellowship. "In fact, more Christians have been martyred in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined. It is well past time for us to mobilize the international church to spiritual action on behalf of suffering believers." Materials supporting the emphasis are available from the WEF at 2309 139th St. SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012; telephone (206) 742-7923.

## Education Commission takes steps to dissolve SBC agency

**PIPESTEM, W.Va. (BP)** — Trustees of the Education Commission took steps June 23-24 to implement the actions of the Southern Baptist Convention abolishing the 81-year-old agency by June 1997. Trustees meanwhile expressed a desire to retain some flexibility in the process and to protect the best interests of staff who must find other positions of service.

The annual trustee meeting, at Pipestem (W.Va.) Resort State

Park and hosted by Bluefield College, may be the last plenary session of the governing board of the agency which relates to the Southern Baptist seminaries, colleges, universities, and schools.

Thomas A. Kinchen, president of Florida Baptist Theological College and trustee vice chairman, made a motion in the first session which would have effectively abolished the Education Commission as early as Dec. 31, 1996. The motion

was approved without a specific date stipulated.

The trustee action prompted discussion during the night, and in the second session the next morning, a substitute motion was offered by Woodrow W. Burt Jr., president of Missouri's Hannibal-LaGrange College, designating June 19, 1997, as the termination date for commission staff and programs.

The Burt motion lost 9-8, which left the Kinchen motion standing. However, discussion on the matter produced a consensus that the trustees should retain flexibility in the agency's dissolution while keeping faith with the action and spirit of the SBC action, part of the convention-wide "Covenant for a New Century" now being implemented.

Technically, the dissolution of the Education Commission will become a merger with the SBC Executive Committee, under Tennessee laws. Both corporations have offices in Nashville.

Stephen P. Carleton, executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission, called attention to the "Transition Calendar" which had been developed for the dissolution of the agency.

The calendar begins with the action on Bylaw 15 of the SBC's governing documents by messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 11-13 in New Orleans, which completed the restructuring proposal that eliminates or merges seven of the 19 SBC agencies and institutions.

The transition calendar ends with the books officially closing on June 30, 1997. The SBC agreed to fund the Education Commission through June 1997 in the amount of \$370,148 in Cooperative Program funds.

The Kinchen motion came as a surprise to some trustees and the staff because of the dates in the Transition Calendar. His motion placed implementation of the dissolution process in the hands of the commission's five-member administrative committee, chaired by E. Douglas Hodo, president of Houston Baptist University.



### LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*LifeAnswers* is on temporary hiatus. The column will return to its regular weekly schedule in late July.

Send your counseling questions to *LifeAnswers* c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



## Visiting the exhibits

Harold Bryson (right), professor, Christian studies and philosophy at Mississippi College in Clinton, talks June 11 with Roy Raddin (center), retired director of missions for Washington Association, and Raddin's son David, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, at the Mississippi College exhibit on the floor of the Superdome in New Orleans. The three men were attending the 1996 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. For more photos of Mississippians at the Southern Baptist Convention, please turn to page 5. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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IBKG PDQLHQ HKGQ PCBX CLU ISZDRSLZX  
CGKLZ VKA? HKGQ RDQV LKR DQLHQ, QEQL KI  
VKAB OAXRX RDCR PCB SL VKAB GQGWBX?

NCGQX IKAB: KLO

This week's clue: X equals S.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Peter One: Twenty-Two.

Baptist Record

July

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SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE  
TN 37203-3620  
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7-11  
5291

BOX 530, JACKSON, MS